

mistakes as to the progress of the Schools ; in fact, not one in five thousand could observe and appreciate those minute indications of progress, or the reverse, which we must now study to form a correct idea of the health of our system.

It has no visible face, so to speak, to present to all as an index of its condition—no accessible points where any one can feel its pulse ; and the whole system might improve 20 per cent., and not one man in every thousand could be immediately aware of the fact, or would suspect it till the progress became still greater, and began to effect a real revolution in the State. For instance, it has been my anxious effort to note the signs of health or disease, and with me have been watching 82 Chairmen, one in every County, and practically acquainted with the condition of things.

The general voice of these is, that there is a decided tendency to improvement—the very general opinion of nearly all who have the best means of knowing, and are the safest advisers in these things, of those who have taken a strong practical interest in them, is, that a much more healthful condition of the system has been supervening. In short, no one who will take his position on the right ground for observation, and carefully examine and put together all the reliable signs that can be observed, can deny that, every thing considered, our School system promises better, by 10 per cent. at least, than ever before in its history—and that in many vital points, disease is yielding to returning health. This is a very important fact ; but these signs of returning vigor are not hectic flushes or spasmodic excitements, obvious to all superficial observers. Therefore these may enquire, “Where is the evidence of improvement?” expecting to be answered by reference to some brilliant patent exhibitions, which the system cannot possibly present under its present organization, whatever its progress ; and if it did present them, they would be unhealthy signs. Hence, the importance of arrangements by which there may be manifested, when improvements do occur, those public indications which strike the senses of every body ; and the Library Association would be one of this sort. A good Hall would make a great impression of progress ; and such exhibitions would act as a powerful stimulus on those